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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINGST 00741 012247Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /048 W
----------123950 021452Z /23
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SEXSTATE WASHDC 9540
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USINT HAVANA

S E C R E T KINGSTON 00741

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINR, CU, JM, UK
SUBJECT: CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN JAMAICA SECURITY FORCES: BRITISH CONCERN

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHN DRINKALL TOLD AMBASSADOR LATE LAST WEEK AND IN GREATER DETAIL TO DCM ON FEBRUARY 1 THAT ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO HE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY DUDLEY THOMPSON ABOUT GROWING CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE JAMAICA SECURITY FORCES. IN PARTICULAR HE HAD IN MIND REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT CUBA WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH EXPANSION OF HOME GUARD, SPECULATION TO THE EFFECT THAT HOME GUARD MIGHT BECOME SOMETHING OF A PEOPLE'S MILITIA, AND REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT CUBANS WERE INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN VARIOUS JAMAICAN INTERNAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. DRINKALL TOLD THOMPSON THAT THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, FREE TO OBTAIN ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS FROM WHATEVER SOURCE IT WISHED. HOWEVER, THOMPSON AND THE GOJ MUST UNDERSTAND THAT BRITISH ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION WITH THE JAMAICAN DEFENCE FORCE AND THE JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE SPECIAL BRANCH COULD BE
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JEOPARDIZED.
2. THOMPSON INDICATED TO DRINKALL THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE POINT AND PLAYED DOWN CUBAN ASSISTANCE AS BEING ONLY ADVISORY IN LIMITED AREAS. HE ALSO REJECTED THE SPECULATION THAT THE HOME GUARD WOULD BECOME A POLITICALLY-ORIENTED PEOPLE'S MILITIA.
3. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN SINCE JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE A

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CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITISH MI-5 AND THE
JAMAICA SPECIAL BRANCH, CONSIDERABLE BRITISH TRAINING
OF JAMAICAN POLICE AND A WIDE RANGE OF BRITISH COOPERATION
WITH AND TRAINING OF THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE.
WHILE THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE EROSION IN THE AREA
OF INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT
THE GOJ WOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION
WHICH WOULD RESULT IN COMPLETE TERMINATION OF THE
"BRITISH CONNECTION" -- AT LEAST WITH RESPECT
TO THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE.
IRVING

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